

(Titus 3:1-3 ESV)

[1] *Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,*

(Romans 13:1-2 ESV) *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

(1 Peter 2:13-15 ESV) *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, [14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. [15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*

BUT the government, civil authorities and the POTUS is NOT going to save us.

(1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV) *First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

The greatest thing you can do is not to exercise your privilege to vote, the greatest thing you can do is to exercise your right to pray.

(Jer 29:7) *Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.*

Christianity's growth and impact is not related to government policy in America.

Its growth and impact comes from prayer more than politics.

It comes from gospel proclamation rather than government policy

It comes from a personal holiness more than a legislated morality.

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Oswald Chambers.

[2] *to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy (humility) toward all people.*

“The Greek term for “slander” is blasphemein, from which the English term “to blaspheme” is derived. Essentially, blasphemy is the verbal expression of evil and malicious thoughts directed toward a person who is held in contempt. Whereas the Scriptures speak of the absolute seriousness of blasphemy toward deity, specifically toward God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, it equally recognizes and condemns blasphemy toward celestial beings and humans.” New American Commentary.

(James 3:9-10 ESV) *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. [10] From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*

(James 4:1-2 ESV) *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.*

(Philippians 2:3 ESV) *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

[3] *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.*

We were “foolish,” i.e., unintelligent, senseless. Our minds did not grasp self-evident truths about God.

We were “disobedient” to God and his will for our lives.

We were “led astray,” misled, deceived perhaps by Satan (cf. 2 Cor 4:4).

We were “slaves to various passions and pleasures.” In Rom 6:6–23, Paul expressly characterized sin in terms of bondage.

- Whatever you are affectionate toward, controls you.

We had “Malice” refers to wickedness, perhaps characterized by “ill-will” to others.

We had “Envy” denotes a continual dissatisfaction with one’s own position, possessions, or power as compared to that of another.

And finally, Paul concluded that we were “being hated” and “hating one another.” These terms, both passive and active, represent the logical results of self-centered, sinful humanity.

When your affections start to go to the creation rather than the creator, you will begin to have phantom itches you can never scratch no matter how hard you try.